

Amendments to the claims:

1. (currently amended) A golf bag comprising:
 - a body defining a generally tubular compartment for containing golf clubs, said compartment having an open top end and a closed bottom end with a spine extending between the open top end and the closed bottom end;
 - a throat structure defining the open top end of said compartment;
 - a bottom assembly defining the closed bottom end of said compartment;
 - an elongated stay located in a longitudinal position inside said body and arranged substantially parallel to said spine, said stay having an upper end engaged with said throat structure and a lower end disposed in a pocket formed between said bottom assembly and said body; and
 - an openable and closable access port located in said body between said throat structure and said bottom assembly for providing access through said body to said compartment, said stay and said pocket in order to facilitate repairs to said stay and said pocket and in order to retrieve articles that may have fallen into said compartment through said throat structure.
2. (original) The golf bag of claim 1, wherein said openable and closable access port comprises a zipper closure extending longitudinally in said body.
3. (original) The golf bag of claim 2, wherein said access port is opened by opening said zipper closure and closed by closing said zipper closure.

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4. (original) The golf bag of claim 1, further comprising a sleeve inside said body through which said stay extends and wherein said access port also provides access through said body to said sleeve.

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)